**Africa Group Input (Priority Activities)**

**1. Process Activities (International, Regional and National levels)**

* Official launching of the Decade under the auspices of the PGA before the end of the 68th Session on the UNGA, in the context of the UNGA Plenary;

The following would also become elements to be adopted during UNGA 68:

* Resolution adopting the Programe Action currently Draft Programme of Action (A/HRC/21/60/Add.2); alternative approaches must be explored, by which the Secretariat may have to effect the amendment of the status of the document without referencing a resolution.
* Programme of Activities transmitted by the Human Rights Council to be adopted during its 26th Session in compliance with the deadline provided by the UNGA in its resolution 68/237;
* Appoint the High Commissioner for Human Rights as a coordinator of the Programme of Activities for the Decade;
* Call on states and regions to celebrate the Launch of the Decade and decide on their own Programmes of Action for the full and effective implementation of the Decade;
* Make resources available within the regular budget for the full and effective implementation of the Decade at the international level;
* Erection of the Permanent Memorial on Slavery and Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to be completed and inaugurated before the Mid-Term Review in 2020, consistent with operative paragraphs 119 and 120 of the DDPA.
* UNGA should call for the convening of the Mid-Term Review. Member states should be afforded an opportunity to offer to host the Mid-Term Review {Not in the context of Geneva or the GA};
* The Mid-Term Review will take stock of progress made and decide on further actions;
* An international conference marking the closure of the International Decade on People of African Descent. The conference will decide on further actions and initiatives beyond the Decade;
* Regions hosting people of African Descent should hold conferences bearing in mind the Theme of the Decade; and
* Need an international instrument on People of African Descent to be finalized within the Decade and undertaken in accordance with operative paragraph 179 of the DDPA.
* Establishment of a Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

**2. Substantive Programme of Activities**

* Reparations to restore the dignity of People of African Descent in terms of mitigating their economic, social and cultural marginalization.
* States should establish and implement without delay national policies and action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their gender-based manifestation.
* Eliminate racism and structural and institutional discrimination against people of African descent, rooted in the infamous regime of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and reinforced by the context of globalization, which are evident in the situations of inequality, marginalization and stigmatization affecting those people worldwide. Racism and structural and institutional discrimination manifested, inter alia, in their grouping among the poorest of the poor in many countries, often inhabiting the regions, districts and areas, both rural and urban, with the most precarious infrastructure and being more exposed to crime and violence; low levels of participation and underrepresentation in political and institutional decision-making processes; barriers in access to and completion of quality education, which results in the intergenerational transmission of poverty; inequality in access to labour markets; a disproportionate presencein prison populations; limited social recognition and valuing of their ethnic and cultural diversity; and intolerance against religions of African origin.
* States should ensure adequate acess to maternal health care. Many people of African descent facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds such as age, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth or other status. Women of African descent have historically suffered and continue to suffer compounded discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, socioeconomic status and gender. This multiple discrimination manifests in situations of limited access to education, employment and security, and vulnerability to gender-based violence. Furthermore, they often suffer higher rates of maternal mortality due to limited access to maternal health care.Multiple forms of discrimination are also a recurring reason for the denial or deprivation of nationality and therefore a cause of statelessness.
* The relationship between race, social and economic status and citizenship means that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers of African descent around the world are often in particularly vulnerable situations. Many experience violations related both to xenophobia as foreigners and racism based on their African descent. They often encounter barriers in access to employment and work in informal and precarious jobs, often in dangerous conditions. To this end, states should ensure sufficient access to health services, education, housing and social security, which is particularly limited for many such migrants.
* Public and political discourse and its impact on immigration policies often results in migrants and indeed nationals facing racial discrimination and being used as scapegoats for economic and social difficulties faced by societies, particularly in relation to the availability of jobs, housing and health services. Within such discourse, they are often portrayed as criminals and security threats, which enflames mistrust, fear and resentment resulting in further discrimination, racism and xenophobic attitudes and often manifested in violent acts.Migrants in an irregular situation, refugees and asylum seekers are particularly targeted. In some countries, people of African descent are also often disproportionately represented among groups of internally displaced persons.
* Institutional discrimination in justice systems often impacts upon people of African descent. The impossibility of accessing domestic judicial remedies and complaint mechanisms, be they administrative or judicial, is a factor contributing to the persistence of racism. In addition, the absence of judicial guarantees and the lack of sensitivity of justice system operators with respect to racial discrimination, contribute to even deeper resignation on the part of the discriminated groups, and help perpetuate patterns of exclusion and impunity.
* Young men of African descent face alarmingly high rates of police violence. Racial profiling continues to be widely applied as a selective and discretionary mechanism for detaining and investigating and this practice is inextricably linked to the overrepresentation of people of African descent in arrest rates, and in prison populations.
* The discrimination that people of African descent face perpetuates cycles of disadvantage which hinder human development. In accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development, Programmes of Action should have a specific focus aimed at guaranteeing equal right to full, active and meaningful participation in development decision-making, and to benefit equally and fairly from development gains. This would also be in line with Article 6, which embodies non-discrimination and the elimination of obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.
* The situation of people of African descent in many cases remains largely invisible, with a lack of official disaggregated statistical data to demonstrate the extent of discrimination. Furthermore, there is limited recognition of their histories, heritage and contributions to nations’ development in education curricula, popular culture or the media, and images of people of African descent often reinforce negative stereotypes informed by deep-rooted discriminatory attitudes. Insufficient recognition and respect have been given to the efforts of people of African descent to seek redress for their present conditions, including through calls “of the moral obligation on the part of all concerned States to take appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of those practices”.This should include reparations.
* Programmes of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent should contribute to achieving equality and non-discrimination and strengthening the rule of law and democracy. Such Programmes should be a useful tool to pave the way for future work by all States in all regions of the world, the international community and civil society for the promotion and protection of all human rights of all people of African descent. Further efforts are needed by States to protect people of African descent from racial discrimination and to ensure their equal enjoyment of all human rights. There is a need for all relevant actors to work together at national, regional and international levels to achieve the goals set forth in the Programme of Action.